

# Supplement

Alaska ◆Idaho ◆Montana ◆Oregon ◆Washington

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## New Contract Takes Up Where Old One Leaves Off

Neil Rambo

Centuries come and go—but RML contracts just roll along. Well, okay, that may be an oddly skewed viewpoint, but the newest contract—to take effect on May Day—will indeed take us into the next century. There will be some changes with the new contract but more continuity than not. The goals are an updated version of those that have been in place for the last five years:

1) promote awareness of and access to biomedical information resources for health professionals; 2) develop and improve the biomedical information resources in the region and support the sharing of these resources within the region and throughout the nation; and 3) encourage, develop, and support connectivity to the Internet and the inclusion of network member libraries and health professionals in the developing national information infrastructure.

We have been beating the Internet drum for the last five years even though the Internet wasn't mentioned in the last contract. Fortunately, the work to be done under these contracts is broadly specified by reference to the goals. The "goal" is indicated, but how to achieve it is largely left up to the contractor's (and advisors') sense of how best to meet the needs of the region. For the foreseeable future, the Internet and the Web appear to be the ascendant information technologies. We will continue to do our best to ride that wave for the benefit of those we serve. If the technology or the technique changes, so will we.

To excerpt from our contract summary statement: "Changes in health care need to be at the center of what we do. Managed care is rapidly becoming prevalent in much of our region and is already dominant in most of the urban areas. This is changing the roles and relationships of providers and patients and all intermediaries in the delivery system. These changes are causing the value and use of information to increase. Librarians need to be conversant with a universe of information which increasingly includes consumer health resources, population-based information, and informatics."

Some emphases and highlights to look for:

1. Seek opportunities to collaborate with organizations and agencies serving minority and under-served populations (e.g., American Indian and

continued from previous page

migrant farmworker communities);

- 2. Expand our Resource Library base beyond our regions' two medical school libraries, to afford greater representation and participation to the academic library communities in those states without their own medical school libraries:
- 3. Offer outreach subcontract funding to one Resource Library per year;
- 4. A more "virtual" Regional Advisory Committee permitting an expanded and broader membership, more electronic communication, and periodic forums held throughout the region;
- 5. Concentrate more on organizations and groups (less on individuals);
- 6. Based on pilot project work in Washington State, work with state and local health department staff throughout the region in effective use of population-based health information resources;
- 7. More focus on health professionals in decentralized settings (e.g., clinics, networks, schools, and health departments/districts); and,
- 8. More focus on supporting librarians who themselves can provide outreach.

# NATIONAL NETWORK/LIBRARIES OF MEDICINE PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

#### WWW: http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/pnr/

Regional Medical Library (RML) University of Washington, Box 357155, Seattle, WA 98195-7155 Toll-Free Telephone: 800-338-7657

Telephone: 206-543-8262, FAX: 206-543-2469 OnTyme Code: UWHSL/RML

Internet: nnlm@u.washington.edu, or user name given in parentheses after the name of each staff person; all are available by typing username@u.washington.edu

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#### Projections for US health care

The Pew Health Professions Commission recently reported some stark realities and galvanizing opportunities projected for US health care:

Up to half of the nations hospitals will close with a loss of 60% of hospital beds. There will be an enormous expansion of ambulatory and community settings for primary care. There will be a surplus of 100,000-150,000 physicians, 200,000-300,000 nurses, and 40,000 pharmacists. Allied health professions will consolidate into fewer, multi-skilled professions. There will be greater demands for public health professionals to meet the needs of a market driven system. Academic medical centers will fundamentally change how they train health professionals, conduct research, and treat patients.

One of the key recommendations for health professionals serving in this brave new environment is that they "be able to use sophisticated information and communications technology; promote health and prevent disease; be well-versed in clinical prevention and health education; be more consumer focused and ready to move into new roles that ask them to strike an equitable balance between resources and needs."

There is enormous opportunity for librarians in this scenario. We can be essential partners in protecting and improving the health of the public. We are committed to the idea that the work carried out under the NN/LM contract should further our ability to contribute and respond to the needs of health care in the future. We look forward to moving ahead together over the next five years.

## Join HLIB-NW

# To send messages to everyone on the HLIB-NW List, use the address:

#### hlib-nw@u.washington.edu

You may want to save this address in your own e-mail address list.

For all other requests, send an e-mail message, leave the subject line blank and type the message in the body of the message. Send the message to: listproc@u.washington.edu

To subscribe:

subscribe hlib-nw first-name last-name

To get help and a list of all commands: help

## 'Net News: Internet Grateful Med

Maryanne Blake

Grateful Med is ten years old this year; Grateful Med is brand new. There is nothing illogical or inconsistent about these statements. The DOS version of Grateful Med had its tenth birthday on February 4th of this year. On April 16th the production release of Internet Grateful Med (IGM) made its debut at a conference on healthcare applications of the Internet at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, that was sponsored by the Friends of the National Library of Medicine. Senator Bill Frist (R-TN), the only physician in the United States Senate, performed the live demonstration of IGM. NLM's Library Director, Donald A. B. Lindberg, MD, said "The National Library of Medicine's debut of this program could not be more timely. In a world where medical advances are coming at unprecedented speed, it's incredibly difficult, if not impossible, for even the most dedicated professional to keep up with the latest breakthroughs without the benefit of the MEDLINE database and the Internet Grateful Med.

Internet Grateful Med (IGM) is the National Library of Medicine's new MEDLARS search assistant which utilizes the World Wide Web. It also makes extensive use of NLM's Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) Metathesaurus to help the user formulate and refine a search in MEDLINE. At the present time the only files you can access with IGM are MEDLINE and its back files. The program does offer links to HSTAT, with the full text of the Clinical Practice Guidelines, and to Online Images from NLM's History of Medicine Division. One exciting aspect of Internet Grateful Med is that whenever an update or improvement is made to the program it is available immediately to all users. As a matter of fact, a follow-on release is expected shortly which will allow searching of other files in addition to MEDLINE.

Like previous versions of Grateful Med this program allows you to search subjects, text words, authors, and title words from an easy-to-fill-in form screen. No manual is needed for IGM. On-screen context-sensitive help about the actions performed by the program is available by clicking on "information icons." These are indicated by a blue box with a white *i* in it. IGM's user-friendliness is further enhanced by the point-and-click environment of a graphical Web browser. Point and click to apply limits such as language, age groups, publication types and years. Once a search is performed and brief citations are retrieved clickable buttons provide for easy maneuvering on the

results screen. These help to get abstracts of the citations, download the results to a file on your computer, look at the search strategy, search for other years and order the actual article using Loansome Doc.

From the URL <a href="http://igm.nlm.nih.gov/">http://igm.nlm.nih.gov/</a> anyone with a valid MEDLARS User ID and password can search MEDLINE using IGM. It is strongly recommended that the browser Netscape Navigator 2.0 be used; several other browsers tested have not worked properly. Like other versions of Grateful Med, you are charged only for the searches you perform and the results that are downloaded to your screen or disk. Typically a search that retrieves 25 citations with abstracts will cost between \$2.50 and \$4.00 depending on the number and length of the abstracts. This variance is because the number of characters downloaded is a significant part of NLM's billing algorithm. Those who have flatrate MEDLARS User IDs and passwords through a professional organization can use them with Internet Grateful Med.

The Internet Grateful Med Search Screen

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# Internet Basics: File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

Nancy T. Lombardo and Joan M. Gregory

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is the service that allows you to move files from one computer to another on the Internet. With "Anonymous FTP" you can access large repositories of documents, software applications, and graphics stored on thousands of public FTP computers and download them to your personal computer or account. These files are mostly public domain (free) and Shareware (small fee). With full service FTP, you can move files between any Internet computers where you have an account or access privileges.

#### How to Use FTP

In order to successfully FTP to another computer, you must know the Internet address of the remote host. The address can be an alphabetic domain name (medlib.med.utah.edu) or a numeric IP address (155.100.78.225). For anonymous FTP, you login as "anonymous." Once connected, you move to the directory of your choice, get the files you want, and logout with "quit." The commands will vary depending upon the FTP client program you use on your computer.

There are two major types of files, ASCII text (text with no formatting) and binary. Binary files include programs, graphics, and formatted documents. Most FTP sites assume that you will be transferring ASCII text. You must let FTP know when to transfer a binary file. To alert FTP that you will be transferring a binary file, simply type the word binary, or select the appropriate option in your client software.

#### **Basic FTP from a Command Prompt**

Sample Command	Explanation
ftp medlib.med.utah.edu	Establish the connection using FTP
cd /library/internet	Change to the correct directory
binary	Select binary mode
get ws_ftp.zip	Get a specific file
quit	Logoff

## **Types of FTP Resources**

Millions of files are available via FTP. The full text of government documents and current legislation, full text of literary classics, color graphics, sounds of all kinds, full motion video, and software of all kinds can be downloaded. The distinction between ASCII (plain text) and binary is very important when downloading. Filename extensions usually indicate file types. Some of the common extensions are:

Extension	File Type	Mode
.txt	Plain ASCII text file	ASCII
.exe	DOS executable file	binary
.gif	Graphic Interchange Format	binary

#### **Some Anonymous FTP Examples**

ftp://ftp.dartmouth.edu/pub/mac
ftp://uiarchive.cso.uiuc.edu/pub/etext/
 gutenberg
ftp://ftp.bio.indiana.edu/help/nih-forms/
ftp://ftp.netscape.com/

## Compression

Compression is another concern when downloading. Frequently, items on the Net are compressed before they are made available for FTP. In order to use the files, you must decompress them at some point during the process. This table lists a few of the common compression extensions, their hardware compatibility, the software they derive from, and the commands for decoding them.

Format	Extractor	Commands
in UNIX		
filename.tar	tar	tar xf filename.tar
filename.Z	uncompress	uncompress filename.Z
filename.gz	GNU Zip	gunzip filename.gz

#### in MS-DOS and Windows...

filename.arc	arc.exe	arcefilename(x)
filename.zip	pkunzip.exe	pkunzip filename
filename.zoo	zoo.exe	zoo e filename (x,-extract)

#### in Macintosh...

filename.hqx, filename.sit, filename.sea (or some combinations of these): Use Stuffit Expander. Drag the icon of the downloaded item on top of the Stuffit Expander icon. It does the rest with no commands

#### **FTP Client Software**

Macintosh and Windows users may wish to use desktop client applications to perform FTP. The clients listed below are free and are available via anonymous FTP from the sites listed.

#### Macintosh: Fetch

ftp://sumex-aim.stanford.edu/info-mac/
 \_Communication/\_MacTCP/fetch-301.hqx

#### Windows: WS-FTP

ftp://ftp.csra.net/pub/

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## Try a Different Database— HSDB

Linda Milgrom

Many seasoned ELHILL searchers are intimidated by the TOXNET files. Have no fear! Although the file structure and commands are a bit different, TOXNET databases contain unique, valuable information. Some files, such as the Hazardous Substance Data Bank (HSDB), even have menus to make navigation much easier.

What's covered? Peer reviewed, factual information concerning over 4,000 potentially hazardous chemicals

What are some appropriate subjects for HSDB? Human health effects, emergency medical treatment, chemical safety and handling, environmental/exposure information, animal toxicity studies, regulations and standards, and chemical/physical properties

How do I get to HSDB from Medline? No special accounts, passwords or logins are required. At any user prompt, type "File HSDB." The gateway will take you directly to HSDB. If you are not a frequent searcher of these files, I strongly advise you to use the menus provided by NLM. Type "mode menu" and follow online instructions.

What are some sample search topics? Adverse effects of ibuprofen on the skin, physical properties of caffeine, safety precautions in handling acetone, federal and state regulations concerning asbestos

Do menus really help? Yes! For the ibuprofen search, I selected "human health effects" and entered the chemical name (synonyms or registry numbers also work). Computer response was, "Your search has now retrieved 1 record and 24 occurrences." There is only one record per substance in this file, and I have retrieved 24 statements or paragraphs concerning adverse human health effects. Following the menu, I elect to "modify" this to limit to organ/system effects. I choose, skin and sensory organs and find I have 5 occurrences. The program gives me options for displaying results online in segments, continuously, or offline.

Where can I get additional help? There is help online or contact Medlars Help Desk (800-638-8480), or NLM's Specialized Information Services Division (301-496-6531) or by email to toxmail@tox.nlm.nih.gov. If you would like a non-billed code to try a new feature, please contact me at the RML.

## Loansome Doc Usage

Nancy Press

Loansome Doc became the link between Grateful Med and DOCLINE in 1991. Now when the RML staff shows a health professional how to find a citation in Grateful Med, we can say, "And you can get a copy of the whole article from a library by clicking this button." Every month we get about five Grateful Med users calling us for referral to a library. In brief, we recommend that they ask for Loansome Doc service from 1st) the library in their own health care facility if there is one, 2nd) a DOCLINE library with a specialty in their area, 3rd) a nearby DOCLINE library, or 4th) a large DOCLINE library. If the Grateful Med users are not affiliated with a library, we recommend at least three libraries and let them choose one. Our usual line is, "Call the libraries and ask about their rates; the library you choose will probably want to sign a little contract with you whereby they promise to provide good service and you promise to pay up."

We strongly encourage you to serve Loansome Doc users who call you, especially if they are from your own institution. Call me if you need help setting up Loansome Doc service.

The National Library Medicine has kept statistics on Loansome Doc usage. Here is a brief outline of some recent national statistics.

#### Aug. 93 Oct. 95 Growth of Loansome Doc

3052	9977	completed requests that were ordered via Loansome Doc
4891	12748	individuals sent LD requests since LD began
291	307	new users began ordering documents during month
291	383	libraries in the NN/LM network recorded LD activity

#### Method of delivery requested - Oct. 95

4% pick up91% mail5% fax

#### Requests filled - Oct. 95

73% filled by the LD library from its own collection

12% transferred into DOCLINE

15% not filled by the LD library/not transferred into DOCLINE

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**Demonstration Samplers**. The RML staff frequently meets with groups of health professionals who are interested in Internet resources. We prepare sampler lists like this one as handouts. Take a look at the whole collection at: http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/pnr/list.html

If you prepare a hand-out like this, let us know and we may add it to our web collection.



#### **Internet Tips**

## **Prevention Resource Sampler**

Compiled by National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region (NN/LM PNR) Staff

#### **General Prevention**

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/nccdhome.htm

The CDC Prevention Guidelines Database http://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/prevguid/prevguid.html

Indiana Prevention Resource Center (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs) http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/

## **Alcohol**

The National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information http://www.health.org/

NIAAA Alcohol Alerts (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism) http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/pubs/radar/radar1.html

CDC's Preventing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome & Other Alcohol-Related Developmental Disabilities http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/i:/cehweb/nceh/pubcatns/1994/cdc/brosures/fas-bro.htm#fas-bro

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) http://www.samhsa.gov/CSAP.HTM

#### **Diabetes**

American Diabetes Association http://www.diabetes.org/

CDC's Diabetes Home Page

http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/ddt/ddthome.htm

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease http://www.niddk.nih.gov/

#### **Environmental Health Hazards**

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) http://www.cdc.gov/diseases/niosh.html

#### **HIV/AIDS**

CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv\_aids/dhap.htm

Bastyr [Naturopathic] University AIDS Resource Center http://www.bastyr.edu/research/recruit.html

National Library of Medicine HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service http://text.nlm.nih.gov/atis/list.html

## Injuries, Accidents, and Violence

Children's Safety Network (National Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Center) http://www.edc.org/HHD/csn/

Safe Kids Campaign Home Page http://www.oclc.org/safekids/

Injury Control Resource Information Network from the University of Pittsburgh http://info.pitt.edu/~hweiss/injury

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/ncipchm.htm

#### **Tobacco**

The Arizona Nicotine & Tobacco Network (NICNET) http://www.medlib.arizona.edu/~pubhlth/tobac.html

Oncolink's Lung Cancer Web Page http://cancer.med.upenn.edu/disease/lung1/

Oncolink's Smoking, Tobacco, and Cancer Web Page http://oncolink.upenn.edu/topics/smoking\_menu.html

Canadian Council on Smoking and Health http://fox.nstn.ca/~ncth2/ccshccts.html

#### Women's and Infants' Health

FDA's Information for Women on Food Safety, Nutrition and Cosmetics http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/wh-toc.html

Women's Health from University of Pittsburgh http://www.pitt.edu/HOME/GHNet/GHWomen.html

Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinics from the University of Iowa http://vh.radiology.uiowa.edu/Patients/IowaHealthBook/OBGyn/OBGyn.html

CDC Infants' and Childrens' Health Page http://www.cdc.gov/diseases/infant.html

Harvard Women's Health Watch - an online journal http://www.med.harvard.edu/publications/Women/.index.html

#### **Tuberculosis**

CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/dtbe.html

Tuberculosis ... New York City Department of Health, Bureau of Tuberculosis Control http://www.cpmc.columbia.edu/tbcpp/

URL: http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/pnr/etc/prevention.html

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# Regional Calendar

June 18-20, 1996 Fundamentals of MEDLARS Searching, Seattle, WA.\* Sept 10-12, 1996 Fundamentals of MEDLARS Searching, Seattle, WA.\*

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 1996 Washington State Joint Conference on Health. Tacoma, WA. Contact Washington State Public

Health Association conference registrar, 206-361-2935.

October 5-9, 1996 Pacific Northwest Chapter/Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, Whitefish, MT

May 21-28, 1997 Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

October 14-17, 1997 Pacific Northwest Chapter/Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, Portland, OR

National Network of Libraries of Medicine Pacific Northwest Region University of Washington Box 357155 Seattle, Washington 98195-7155

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